

By-Laws  
of  
**Boston Commandery**  
of  
**Knights Templars**



**January 1, 1929**

## BY-LAWS

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### ARTICLE I

#### CONSTITUTION

The Boston Commandery of Knights Templars and the Appendant Orders shall consist of an Eminent Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Prelate, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Recorder, Sword-Bearer, Standard-Bearer, Warder, three Captains of the Guards, Musical Director, Armorer, and Sentinel; and as many other Knights Templars as the majority of the members may from time to time determine.

### ARTICLE II

#### STATED CONCLAVES

SECTION 1. The Commandery shall assemble on the third Wednesday of each month, at such place and hour as the Eminent Commander shall direct, provided, however, that in the months of July, August, and September the Stated Conclaves may be omitted by a vote of the Commandery.

#### ANNUAL CONCLAVE

SECT. 2. The Annual Conclave for the election of officers shall be held at the Stated Conclave in September.

### ARTICLE III

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The first eight officers shall be elected annually by written or printed ballots; the others shall be appointed by the Eminent Commander immediately after his installation.

#### INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

SECT. 2. The officers shall be installed as soon as may be practicable and shall retain their offices until their successors are installed.

#### VACANCIES

SECT. 3. If any officer elect, not being present at his election, should decline to accept the office or in case of the death or resignation of any officer the vacancy shall be filled at the next Stated Conclave, a dispensation therefor having been first obtained.

### ARTICLE IV

#### DUTIES OF OFFICERS

##### EMINENT COMMANDER

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of the Eminent Commander to convene Regular and Special Conclaves of the Commandery; to preside, when present, at all such Conclaves; to instruct his officers and the members generally in the mysteries of the Orders; to dispense justice, reward merit, encourage truth, and diffuse the sublime principles of universal benevolence.

##### GENERALISSIMO

SECT. 2. The Generalissimo shall assist the Eminent Commander in the various duties of his office; receive his orders on all occasions, and see them duly executed; and, in his absence preside over the Commandery.

##### CAPTAIN-GENERAL

SECT. 3. The Captain-General shall proclaim the orders of the Eminent Commander, assist him in council, and, in the absence of the Eminent Commander and Generalissimo, preside over the Commandery.

#### PRELATE

SECT. 4. The Prelate shall perform such duties as appertain to his office.

#### WARDENS

SECT. 5. The Wardens shall prepare the candidates, accompany them through the ceremonies, and introduce them into the Commandery.

#### TREASURER

SECT. 6. The Treasurer shall demand and collect all the funds from the Recorder at each Conclave, give his receipt for the same, pay all demands against the Commandery when duly approved by the Standing Committee on Finance, and keep a correct account of all receipts and disbursements. He shall deliver to his successor in office, immediately after the election and installation of his successor, all the property of the Commandery remaining in his possession.

#### RECORDER

SECT. 7. The Recorder shall issue to all the members notifications of the Conclaves, inserting the names, places of abode, and occupations of all the candidates, and the special business of the Conclave.

He shall observe with attention the transactions of the Commandery, and keep an accurate record of them. He shall carefully preserve in some safe place, and in good order, all the papers and books of the Commandery which are not required for immediate use, keeping a full and minute inventory thereof.

He shall promptly collect the revenue, and pay it to the Treasurer at each Conclave of the Commandery.

At the Annual Conclave, he shall exhibit a fair statement of all his receipts and payments, and read the names of all the members who are in arrears for dues for one year or more.

He shall serve the chairman of each committee with a copy of the vote by which they were appointed, and attend

their sessions in the capacity of a Secretary, if required; and in the month of January of each year he shall furnish every member with a printed list of the members of the Commandery.

#### SWORD-BEARER

SECT. 8. The Sword-Bearer shall assist in the protection of the banners of the Order; watch all signals from the Eminent Commander, and see his orders duly executed.

#### STANDARD-BEARER

SECT. 9. The Standard-Bearer shall display, support and protect the banners of the Order.

#### WARDER

SECT. 10. The Warder shall see the asylum securely guarded, and the sentinels at their posts; communicate to the Eminent Commander all petitions and requests for admission and favors, and return his answers.

#### GUARDS

SECT. 11. The Guards shall challenge with spirit, examine with caution, admonish with candor, relieve with alacrity, protect with fidelity, and valiantly defend their respective posts.

#### MUSICAL DIRECTOR

SECT. 12. The Musical Director shall have the control and direction of the music.

#### ARMORER

SECT. 13. The Armorer shall have the care of the Armory, and the general charge of all the furniture, regalia, and arms of the Commandery and see that they are kept in good order and fit for use. He shall make to the Commandery, at the Annual Election of Officers, a return in writing of every article in his department, and at all times render such assistance to the officers as may be required.

#### SENTINEL

SECT. 14. The Sentinel shall guard with vigilance the avenues to the Commandery, give the alarm when necessary, and discharge such other duties as may be required of him by the Eminent Commander.

### ARTICLE V

#### CANDIDATES FOR THE ORDERS

SECTION 1. Every candidate for the Orders shall make application in writing, stating his age, residence and occupation, inclosing the fee of seventy-five dollars, and accompanied by a certificate from three Royal Arch Masons, certifying that he has regularly received the degree of Royal Arch Mason, and is of good moral character and respectability. Every application shall be referred to a committee of three, who shall be immediately notified of their duty by the Recorder.

The candidate shall stand proposed from one conclave to another, and his name shall be inserted in the notifications of the conclave at which the balloting is to take place. He shall be reported upon by the investigating committee, or a majority thereof, and the unanimous ballot of the members present shall be necessary for his admission. If he is not accepted the fee shall be returned.

No candidate for the Orders shall be balloted for until he shall have stood proposed at least four weeks, unless by written permission of the Right Eminent Grand Commander. If a candidate be rejected, no new petition for the Orders shall be presented until after the expiration of six months from the time of such rejection.

Every candidate shall obtain at his own expense before being Knighted, a full Regalia of Boston Commandery as described in Article XI, Paragraph 2, under the heading "Regalia."

#### EXPENSES OF SPECIAL CONCLAVES

SECT. 2. When a Special Conclave of the Commandery shall be called at the request of a candidate, for the purpose of his receiving the Orders, he shall defray the expenses, or such of them as the Standing Committee on Finance shall think proper, in addition to the usual fees.

### ARTICLE VI

#### MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. All Knights receiving the Orders in this Commandery and immediately thereafter signing the By-Laws shall thereby become members thereof. Those who have been members, others not knighted in this Commandery, and Knights not signing the By-Laws as above provided may be admitted members at Stated Conclaves. They shall make application in writing, inclosing the admission fee, and stand proposed one month. Their names shall be inserted in the notifications for the conclave at which the balloting is to take place. They shall be reported upon by an investigating committee, or a majority thereof, and the unanimous ballot of the members present shall be necessary for their admission. No one shall be entitled to the privileges of membership until he has signed the By-Laws.

#### NEGLECT TO SIGN THE BY-LAWS

SECT. 2. Any Knight Templar elected to membership, neglecting to sign the By-Laws within six months after his election, must submit to the forms of being reproposed and again balloted for, in order to gain membership.

#### RESIGNATIONS

SECT. 3. Any member wishing to resign his membership shall pay his indebtedness to the Commandery and give the Recorder a written notice of his intention to withdraw. A demit may afterwards be granted by a majority of the members present at any stated conclave.

#### HONORARY MEMBERS

SECT. 4. All Past Eminent Commanders of this Commandery shall be Honorary Members.

Knights Templars who have been eminently useful to the Masonic Fraternity, or have rendered important services to this Commandery, may be admitted Honorary Members. They shall stand proposed one month. Their names shall be inserted in the notifications for the Regular Conclave at which the election is to take place, and the unanimous consent by ballot of the members present shall be necessary for an election.

Honorary Members shall enjoy all rights and privileges of members, except that the right to vote shall not pertain to those who were not previously members of this Commandery.

### ARTICLE VII

#### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Life Members shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of full membership, and shall be exempt from assessments for the support of the Commandery.

Any member of the Commandery whose dues are settled shall, upon the payment of a fee of fifteen times the annual dues, be constituted a life member.

#### PERMANENT FUND

SECT. 2. The Permanent Fund shall be styled "The Permanent Fund of Boston Commandery." The Fund shall consist of all moneys received for Life Membership, of all donations and bequests to the Commandery which are not otherwise definitely limited, of one-tenth of the entire annual receipts of the Commandery excepting the fees for Life Membership and the income of the Permanent Fund, and of such additions as shall from time to time be made by vote of the Commandery. It shall not be considered good knightly faith in the Com-

mandery to diminish the rate of increase hereby established. "The principal of the fund shall never be expended."

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SECT. 3. The Permanent Fund shall be held in the name of the Eminent Commander and members of Boston Commandery, but shall be under the direction and control of a Board of Trustees, consisting of the Eminent Commander, Treasurer, and three members who hold no other office in the Commandery. At each Annual Conclave the Commandery shall elect one member of the Board for the term of three years. Each Trustee, however, shall hold his office until his successor is elected. This Board thus constituted shall be styled "The Trustees of the Permanent Fund of Boston Commandery."

#### VACANCIES

SECT. 4. Should a vacancy occur in the Board of Trustees, by reason of death, or otherwise, it shall be filled by an election by ballot at the next succeeding Stated Conclave, or as soon thereafter as may be practicable, due notice of the election being borne on the notifications.

#### DUTIES OF TRUSTEES

SECT. 5. The Board of Trustees shall carefully and judiciously invest the Permanent Fund in such manner as in their best judgment shall be safest and most productive, and shall select a suitable place of deposit for the securities and vouchers where their absolute safety from fire and theft shall be insured.

The Board of Trustees shall keep a full and accurate record of the investments of the Permanent Fund, and at each Annual Conclave they shall submit to the Commandery a correct statement of the Fund in detail, exhibiting its exact nature and condition. They shall semi-annually pay to the Treasurer, for the use of the Commandery, all incomes derived from the Fund as far as the same can be determined, provided the Standing

Committee on Finance so require, otherwise the said income shall be added to, and constitute a part of the Permanent Fund.

### ARTICLE VII (A)

#### CHARITY FUND

SECTION 1. The Charity Fund established by Boston Commandery shall be styled "The Charity Fund of Boston Commandery of Knights Templars." The fund shall consist of such bequests, donations, subscriptions and other additions as shall from time to time be made to it by any person or by vote of the Commandery. The principal of the fund shall never be expended.

#### TRUSTEES OF THE CHARITY FUND

SECT. 2. The Charity Fund of Boston Commandery shall be held in the name of the Eminent Commander and Members of Boston Commandery, but shall be under the direction and control of a Board of Trustees, consisting of the Eminent Commander, who shall be the President of the Board, the Treasurer and three members of the Commandery who hold no other office in the Commandery than that of Trustee of the Permanent Fund.

The Trustees shall be chosen by ballot at the next Stated Conclave after this By-Law has been approved by the Grand Commandery, one member of the Board to serve until the Annual Conclave in 1907, one to serve until the Annual Conclave in 1908; and one to serve until the Annual Conclave in 1909. At each Annual Conclave the Commandery shall elect one member of the Board for the term of three years. Each Trustee, however, shall hold his office until his successor is elected. The Board thus constituted shall be styled "The Trustees of the Charity Fund of Boston Commandery of Knights Templars."

#### VACANCIES

SECT. 3. Should a vacancy occur in the Board of Trustees of the Charity Fund, by reason of death or otherwise, it shall be filled by an election by ballot at the next succeeding Stated Conclave, or as soon thereafter as may be practicable, due notice of the election being borne on the notifications.

#### DUTIES OF THE TRUSTEES

SECT. 4. The Board of Trustees shall carefully and judiciously invest the Charity Fund in such savings banks and securities of permanent value as in their best judgment will be safest and most productive, preferably in securities in which savings banks in this Commonwealth are authorized by law to invest, and shall select a suitable place of deposit for the securities and vouchers, where their absolute safety from fire and theft will be insured.

The Board of Trustees shall keep a full and accurate record of the investments of the Charity Fund, and at each Annual Conclave they shall submit to the Commandery a correct statement of the fund in detail exhibiting its exact nature and condition.

The Trustees may in their discretion, or by vote of the Commandery, appropriate any of the matured income of the Charity Fund to charitable purposes; but all the income received and unappropriated at the end of the year shall be added to the principal of the fund and shall thereafter constitute a permanent part thereof.

### ARTICLE VIII

#### DECEASE OF MEMBERS

SECTION 1. On the decease of a member of the Commandery, the Eminent Commander shall immediately appoint a committee of five or more to attend the funeral services, and through the Recorder notify them of the time and place of the funeral, provided it be held within

accessible distance. Should any member of the committee be unable to attend the obsequies, it shall be his duty to procure a substitute, unless excused by the Eminent Commander.

#### DONATION TO THE WIDOW OF A DECEASED MEMBER

SECT. 2. The Eminent Commander may direct the Treasurer, on the decease of any member, to pay his widow or orphan thirty dollars.

### ARTICLE IX

#### FEES AND DUES

SECTION 1. The fee for the Orders conferred in Boston Commandery shall be seventy-five dollars.

#### DIPLOMA

SECT. 2. Every candidate receiving the Orders in this Commandery shall receive a Diploma without charge.

#### FEE FOR MEMBERSHIP

SECT. 3. The fee for membership for a Knight Templar not knighted in this Commandery shall be fifty dollars; for one knighted in this Commandery and neglecting to sign the By-Laws within six months thereafter twenty-five dollars; for one who has demitted, the fee shall be a sum equal to one-half the annual dues accruing since said demit. For one whose membership has been declared forfeited, a sum equal to the amount due from him to the Commandery at that time and one-half of the annual dues accruing since; the money to accompany the proposition in all cases.

Every Sir Knight admitted to Membership under the provisions of this Section shall before signing the By-Laws provide himself with a full Regalia of Boston Commandery as described in Article XI, Paragraph 2, under the heading of Regalia, which Regalia shall be approved by the Eminent Commander.

#### FEES TO RECORDER, ETC.

SECT. 4. The Recorder shall receive as compensation for his services five hundred dollars per annum, payable quarterly, and such other sums as the Commandery may from time to time determine.

The Sentinel shall be paid five dollars for each conclave of the Commandery he attends.

The Armorer shall be paid three hundred dollars per annum for taking care of the Armory, and five dollars for every meeting he attends, and such other sums as the Commandery may from time to time determine.

#### ANNUAL DUES

SECT. 5. Every member except Honorary and Life Members shall at the Annual Conclave in each year pay the Recorder eight dollars for the support of the Commandery; provided, however, that the Prelate, Treasurer, Recorder, Musical Director, Armorer and Sentinel shall be exempt from quarterages.

#### REMISSION OF DUES

SECT. 6. The Standing Committee on Finance shall have full authority to remit from time to time the dues of any member whose age, infirmity, misfortune, or deserts may in their good judgment entitle him to the remission. They shall, however, submit a detailed report of the dues remitted for entry on the Records of the Commandery.

#### EXTRA ASSESSMENTS

SECT. 7. No extra assessment shall be made except at a Stated Conclave nor unless a notice of the proposed assessment shall be inserted in the notifications for said Conclave.

#### FORFEITURE OF MEMBERSHIP

SECT. 8. Bills for Annual Dues shall be sent with the notice of the Stated Conclave next succeeding the Annual Conclave in each year and shall be due and payable on or before the date of the next Annual Conclave.

Newly admitted members shall pay a proportionate part of the annual dues from the date of signing the By-Laws until the next Annual Conclave.

Any member whose dues or assessments are not paid on or before the first day of January next succeeding their maturity, shall be deemed a delinquent under the By-Laws, and may by direction of the "Standing Committee on Finance" be proceeded against for non-payment of dues in the manner prescribed by the Grand Constitutions.

The notice therein provided for shall be served upon the delinquent Sir Knight, at least two months before action shall be taken upon his suspension or expulsion, either by giving such notice to him in hand, or by leaving the same at his last and usual place of abode, or by mailing the same to his last known address, postage prepaid.

### ARTICLE X

#### APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

No expenditure involving the funds of the Commandery shall be incurred by any officer or member without the previous sanction of the Commandery except as provided in these By-Laws.

### ARTICLE XI

#### UNIFORM

SECTION 1. The Uniform of Boston Commandery shall be as follows:

##### *Dress*

Black dress or frock coat, black pantaloons, black vest, black cravat, and boots.

### *Regalia*

Black Chapeau with black feathers, gimp, and rosette.

Black velvet baldric and triangular apron decorated agreeably to past usage.

Black enamelled leather belt with silver clasp and chains, and sword with a black leather scabbard with silver mountings.

Buff gauntlets with red passion cross on the outside of each cuff, to be worn on public parade; and white gloves at conclaves for work.

### UNIFORM TO BE WORN

SECT. 2. It shall be the bounden duty of every member to promptly provide himself with the uniform of the Commandery, and to wear it when he is present with the Commandery at its conclaves and on its public parades.

No Knight shall be admitted into the line unless he presents himself in full uniform.

### NO REGALIA TO BE LOANED

SECT. 3. The Armorer shall not loan any of the Regalia belonging to the members of the Commandery without their written order authorizing him so to do.

### ADMISSION TO THE RANKS

SECT. 4. Knights Templars whose uniform does not conform to the uniform of Boston Commandery shall not be admitted to the ranks, without the permission of the Eminent Commander.

## ARTICLE XII

### PARADES

No public parade in uniform, except at funerals, shall be made without a vote of the Commandery at a stated or special conclave; nor unless a notice of the proposed parade is inserted in the notifications for said conclave.

## ARTICLE XIII

### COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. The Knight first appointed on any committee shall be the chairman thereof; he shall furnish his associates with a copy of the resolution or subject confided to them by the Commandery, and notify them of the time and place of their meeting.

Members appointed on committees shall be in duty bound to attend to their duties promptly, faithfully and at the time and place designated by the chairman.

### REPORTS AND EXPENSES OF COMMITTEES

SECT. 2. All committees except Standing Committees, shall report their doings at the next conclave after their appointment, unless otherwise authorized. The necessary expenses of committees shall be defrayed by the Commandery.

## ARTICLE XIV

### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Eminent Commander, Generalissimo and Captain-General shall constitute a Standing Committee on Finance, who shall examine all bills and demands against the Commandery; approve them with a majority of their signatures, if they are found correct; inspect and audit the books and accounts of the Treasurer, Recorder and Trustees of the Permanent Fund; and superintend generally the financial affairs of the Commandery, unless it is otherwise specially ordered.

At each Annual Conclave they shall submit a detailed statement of the receipts and expenditures of the past year, and furnish a list of the debts due by or to the Commandery.

This Standing Committee shall examine and decide all excuses for the breach of these By-Laws.

## ARTICLE XV

### AMENDMENT OR REPEAL OF THE BY-LAWS

SECTION 1. These By-Laws shall not be amended or repealed unless the proposition to amend or repeal be submitted to the Commandery, in writing, at a stated conclave, read in open Commandery, stand at least one month previous to the discussion and be inserted in the notifications of the conclave at which it is to be acted upon.

SECT. 2. Every proposition to amend or repeal shall be referred to a committee of three, who shall report thereon at the next stated conclave, and the proposition may then be adopted by the consent of two-thirds of the members present; provided, however, that any proposition to amend or repeal Article VII, relating to the Permanent Fund, or this provision, shall not be adopted unless the proposition be made in writing at a stated conclave, borne on the notifications for the three succeeding stated conclaves, and then adopted by four-fifths of all the members present.